

# UPDATE

---

## **Unpowered Scooter-Related Injuries**

Many children received scooters for Christmas. They are a lot of fun and a great way to incorporate physical activity into your child's life. However, every parent should be aware of the safety issues.

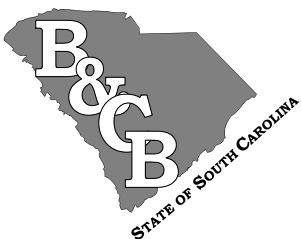
Injuries associated with unpowered scooters have increased dramatically since May 2000. These scooters are a new version of the foot-propelled scooters first popular during the 1950s. Most scooters are made of lightweight aluminum with small, low-friction wheels similar to those on in-line skates. Scooters usually weigh less than 10 pounds and fold for easy portability and storage.

Approximately 85 percent of persons treated in emergency rooms due to scooter accidents were children aged 15 years of age or younger. Twenty-three percent were 8 years of age or younger and two-thirds were males. The most common types of injuries being treated in emergency rooms are fractures or dislocations of which 70 percent were to the arm or hand. Other injuries include lacerations, contusions/abrasions, and strains/sprains.

Parents should encourage children to practice safety and monitor children to make sure their motor skills are well developed and they can maneuver the scooter. The following are tips that parents should enforce.

## **Scooter Usage Tips**

1. Wear a helmet that meets the standard established by the Consumer Product Safety Council.
2. Use bike gloves and knee and elbow pads.
3. Ride scooters on smooth, paved surfaces without traffic and avoid streets and surfaces with water, sand, gravel or dirt.
4. Do not ride scooters at night.
5. Young children should not use scooters without close supervision.



**STATE HEALTH PLAN PREVENTION PARTNERS**  
**South Carolina State Budget and Control Board**  
**Office of Insurance Services-Insurance Benefits Management**  
**March 2001**